

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of the Examiner mailed February 7, 2007. Currently, claims 1-22 remain pending of which claims 1-22 have been rejected. In this amendment, claims 1 and 17 have been amended. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

In paragraph 1 of the Final Office Action, the specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis of the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Final Office Action states that the terminology of “interior zone”, “first area” and “second area” should be used and described in relation to the drawings if applicable. After careful review, Applicant must respectfully disagree.

Applicant believes that there is clearly sufficient support in the present specification. First, the term “interior zone” is used throughout the specification. See, for example, page 6, lines 8-20 of the specification and reference numeral 42b of Figure 5. As such, Applicant believes that there is clearly proper antecedent basis for “interior zone”.

Next, with reference to “first area” and “second area”, Applicant also believes that there is sufficient antecedent support. See, for example, page 6, line 30 – page 7, line 18 of the specification describing how portions 48 of zones 42 are removed. Also, this portion of the specification recites “a portion 48 of a zone 42” and “each zone 42 may be divided into multiple portions 48”. While the exact phrase “first area” and “second area” are not used, Applicant believes that there is clearly sufficient description that would enable a person of skill in the art to understand that a portion of the interior zone (42b) would have an area less than the total area of the interior zone (42b). Furthermore, Figure 5 illustrates the interior zone (42b) with an area and an interior portion (48) having an area less than the area of the interior zone (42b).

However, to further prosecution, Applicant has amended the specification to recite “an interior zone 42b having an area depicted by a portion of the dashed stent pattern 40 outline, wherein the eventual cell 41 must be formed by removing from an interior portion 42b of the material” and “a portion 48 of a zone 42, the portion 48 having

an area less than the area of each zone 42". Furthermore, Applicant believes that the amendments to the specification does not introduce new matter because the matter is clearly depicted in Figure 5 and is described in other words throughout the specification. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicant believes that the specification provides proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112, first paragraph

In paragraph 2 of the Final Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Final Office Action asserted that there is no disclosure in the originally filed specification of an "interior zone", "first area", and "second area". After careful review, Applicant must respectfully disagree.

Applicant believes that there is sufficient disclosure in the specification as filed to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art the meaning of "interior zone", "first area", and "second area". However, as discussed above, Applicant has amended the specification as discussed previously. Therefore, Applicant believes that claims 1-22 are in compliance with the written description requirement of § 112, first paragraph, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

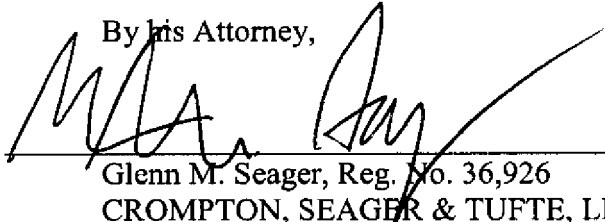
In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,

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